

## LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FOR:

February 2, 1998

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## LAST WEEK:

**105TH CONGRESS RETURNED FOR 2ND SESSION** - The House and Senate reconvened on Tuesday, January 27, for the second session of the 105th Congress.

**STATE OF THE UNION** - President Clinton gave his State of the Union Address before a joint session of Congress Tuesday evening. He touched briefly on the environment and conservation issues, stating that ..."Our communities are only as healthy as the air our children breathe, the water they drink, the Earth they will inherit." He went on to ask congress to join him in launching the Clean Water Initiative. He said further, "The overriding environmental challenge is the worldwide problem of climate change, global warming, the gathering crisis that requires worldwide action."

**CRP BRIEFINGS** - On Thursday, USDA officials provided briefings to House members and their staffs and Senate staff on the results of the 16th CRP sign-up. Gary Nordstrom, Acting Director for Conservation Operations, NRCS, and Parks Shackelford, Assistant Deputy Administrator, FSA, outlined the process and effectiveness of the latest sign-up of 5.9 million acres into the Conservation Reserve Program.

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## THIS WEEK:

**PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED FY99 FEDERAL BUDGET** - The President's budget proposal is expected to be delivered to Congress and made public this week. This will begin the formal budget process for FY99. Appropriation committees have set tentative schedules for hearings noted below.

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## LOOKING AHEAD:

**SENATE FY99 APPROPRIATIONS** - The Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee (Chairman Thad Cochran, R-MS) of the Senate Appropriations Committee will hold hearings on appropriations for FY99.

|         |     |   |
|---------|-----|---|
| Feb. 10 | TBA | 128 Dirksen Bldg.<br>Secretary of Agriculture, Dan Glickman |
|---------|-----|---|

|         |            |                   |
|---------|------------|-------------------|
| Feb. 26 | 10:00 a.m. | 128 Dirksen Bldg. |
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Under Secretary for NRE, James R. Lyons and  
NRCS Chief

**HOUSE FY99 APPROPRIATIONS** - The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Subcommittee (Chairman Joe Skeen, R-NM) of the House Appropriations Committee will hold hearings on appropriations for FY99.

Feb. 25            1:00 p.m.            2362-A Rayburn Bldg.  
Secretary of Agriculture, Dan Glickman

March 17           1:00 p.m.            2362-A Rayburn Bldg.  
Under Secretary for NRE, James R. Lyons and  
NRCS Chief

**EQIP HEARING** - The House Agriculture Subcommittee on Forestry, Resource Conservation, and Research (Chairman Larry Combest R-TX) has tentatively scheduled an oversight hearing on the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

March 5            9:30 a.m.            1300 Longworth

**HEARING ON GLOBAL WARMING TREATY - POSTPONED** The Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee (Chairman Richard Lugar, R-IN) has postponed a hearing on the Kyoto Global Warming Pact that would require a reduction in emissions of carbon dioxide and other "greenhouse" gases that are believed to cause global warming.

TBA                TBA                328-A Russell Bldg.

**ESA REAUTHORIZATION** - The House Resources Committee (Chairman Young, R-Alaska) will hold a hearing on the reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act.

Feb. 11            11:00 a.m.           1324 Longworth Bldg.

**1998 CONGRESSIONAL CALENDAR** - The 2nd Session of the 105th Congress began on January 27, 1998. Although scheduling for the 2nd Session is currently tentative, party leaders have offered the following as target dates:

|                         | <b>House</b>    | <b>Senate</b>  |
|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Reconvenes              | January 27      | January 27     |
| Presidents Day Recess   | Feb. 16-23      | Feb. 14-22     |
| Spring Recess           | April 2-20      | April 4-19     |
| Memorial Day Recess     | May 25-29       | May 23-31      |
| Independence Day Recess | June 26-July 13 | June 27-July 5 |
| Summer Recess           | Aug. 10-Sept. 8 | Aug. 1-Sept. 7 |
| Target adjournment      | Oct. 9          | Oct. 9         |

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